

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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In the Matter of:  
Phippsburg, CO 80469

Docket No: A2012-81  
POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Michael Williams, Petitioner

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner is appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Phippsburg post office. The Final Determination was posted November 21, 2011.

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. 404(d)(5), the Petitioner requests the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Listed below are reasons the Petitioner believes that the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration:

- A. The cost savings that the Postal Service is expecting will not be as large as predicted. Phippsburg is a very small station and our cost footprint is not very large to begin with. Even if the Phippsburg station is eliminated, mail will still need to be delivered here. Instead of bulk mail being dropped off and sorted on-site, which is very convenient since we are located directly on a major delivery route. Mail will need to first be taken to Oak Creek or Yampa, sorted, re-bundled for delivery, transported back to Phippsburg to be delivered. This translates to additional transportation costs and additional employee costs. It adds additional delivery time and inefficiency to an already burdened system. The cost of installing and maintaining cluster boxes will further erode any savings, especially considering that we have existing boxes in a heated, easily accessible space already. There will be an increased risk of liability issues that come with unprotected outdoor cluster boxes. The loss of our Post Office means one more source of income will be eliminated from the system, as a whole. This is also a great inconvenience for our rural elderly population, the closest Post Office to Phippsburg is four miles away (it might as well be one hundred miles away during much of our winter).
- B. The closure of the Phippsburg station will greatly increase dangerous health and safety issues to residents, particularly the elderly. The winter season starts in November and continues through mid April. Our winters are extreme, there are many days when temperatures are well below zero. Wind chill increases this hazard. We also experience large snowfall amounts, which lead to icy roads. Keeping cluster boxes free of ice and snow will be a difficult problem. Opening, retrieving mail and closing boxes will carry with it the increased risk of frostbite. Business that could be performed by walking to the local office would now require the use of an automobile in winter driving conditions (an increased risk for anyone). At the community meeting in August these issues were raised by the Routt County Sheriff's Office, officials from the Yampa Fire Protection District, the Oak Creek Fire Department and residents of Phippsburg.

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Participant Statement (continued)

- C. The last (maybe most important) consideration, comes more from the human side of things. We are a small community in a quiet, remote corner of Northwest Colorado. Phippsburg is a friendly place where neighbors, old and young are not afraid to talk to one another. People here, will bend over backwards to help others. Our Postmaster will call on the phone to let you know that you have Christmas packages waiting for you. If a stray cat shows up, she might know who the owner is. Our Post Office is much more than a place to pick up your mail, it is an information center, a social networking site. Losing our Post Office will rip the heart out of this community. No one will gain from this action, least of all, the Postal Service.

Signature of Petitioner:  Date: 12/23/11  
MICHAEL WILLIAMS